

CADDO RIVER, CONCERT TOUR CLASH IN \$1 MILLION REBEL AT OAKLAWN

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Thursday, March 11, 2021) – With seven weeks remaining until the first Saturday in May, the action is heating up in the Road to the Kentucky Derby Championship Series. On Saturday, **Gary and Mary West's** undefeated **Concert Tour** will clash with **Shortleaf Stable's** dazzling Smarty Jones (GIII) winner **Caddo River** in the \$1 million Rebel (Grade II) at Oaklawn Park.

The 1 1/16-mile Rebel is the 11th race on Oaklawn's 12-race program with a post time of 6:16 p.m. (all times Eastern). Fans can watch the Rebel on "America's Day at the Races" on Fox Sports 2. The race awards the Top 4 finishers points on a 50-20-10-5 scale for the \$3 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (GI).

Concert Tour, trained by Hall of Famer **Bob Baffert**, easily defeated four rivals on debut at Santa Anita by 3 1/2 lengths under **Joel Rosario**. Baffert then stepped Concert Tour up to stakes company in the \$200,000 San Vicente (GII) where he fought hard down the stretch for a half-length score over stablemate **Freedom Fighter**. Saturday's Rebel will be Concert Tour's first start at two-turns. However, this is a familiar pattern for Baffert who won last year's San Vicente with **Nadal** prior to his Rebel victory.

Rosario ships to Oaklawn from Southern California to ride Concert Tour from post No. 7.

One of the top competitors to Concert Tour in the Rebel is dominating 10 1/4-length Smarty Jones winner Caddo River. Conditioned by **Brad Cox**, Caddo River was based at Oaklawn for much of the winter but when inclement weather hit Hot Springs, Ark. in early February, the colt was shifted to Cox's Fair Grounds string and did not miss any training.

Florent Geroux has the mount from the rail.

Other entrants in the Rebel include **Cypress Creek**, **Arnold Bennewith** and **Spendthrift Farm's** \$200,000 Kentucky Jockey Club (GII) winner **Keepmeinmind** and **Gary Barber's** \$300,000 American Pharoah (GI) winner **Get Her Number**.

The complete field for the Rebel from the rail out (with jockey, trainer and morning line odds): Caddo River (Geroux, Cox, 9-5); **Big Lake** (Ricardo Santana Jr., Steve Asmussen, 12-1); **Hozier** (Martin Garcia, Baffert, 12-1); Get Her Number (Javier Castellano, Peter Miller, 8-1); **Twilight Blue** (Brian Hernandez Jr., Joe Sharp, 15-1); Keepmeinmind (David Cohen, Robertino Diodoro, 4-1); Concert Tour (Rosario, Baffert, 2-1); and Super Stock (Joe Talamo, Asmussen, 6-1).

THE RUNDOWN

Rebel (GII)

Saturday, March 13, \$1 million, 3yo, 1 1/16, Oaklawn (R11), Top 4 Points: 50-20-10-5. 6:16 p.m. E.T. TV: Fox Sports 2

#	Horse	Jockey	Trainer	ML
1.	Caddo River	Florent Geroux	Brad Cox	9-5
2.	Big Lake	Ricardo Santana Jr.	Steve Asmussen	12-1
3.	Hozier	Martin Garcia	Bob Baffert	12-1
4.	Get Her Number	Javier Castellano	Peter Miller	8-1
5.	Twilight Blue	Brian Hernandez Jr.	Joe Sharp	15-1
6.	Keepmeinmind	David Cohen	Robertino Diodoro	4-1
7.	Concert Tour	Joel Rosario	Bob Baffert	2-1
8.	Super Stock	Joe Talamo	Steve Asmussen	6-1

ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY TOP 25

#	Horse	Trainer	Points
1.	Greatest Honour	Shug McGaughey III	60
2.	Life Is Good	Bob Baffert	60
3.	Mandaloun	Brad Cox	52
4.	\$-Helium	Mark Casse	50
5.	\$-Weyburn	Jimmy Jerkens	50
6.	Essential Quality	Brad Cox	40
7.	Medina Spirit	Bob Baffert	34
8.	Midnight Bourbon	Steve Asmussen	26
9.	Proxy	Mike Stidham	24
10.	Hidden Stash	Vicki Oliver	22
11.	Crowded Trade	Chad Brown	20
12.	Keepmeinmind	Robertino Diodoro	18
13.	Spielberg	Bob Baffert	17
14.	Rombauer	Michael McCarthy	14
15.	Capo Kane	Harold Wyner	12
16.	Papetu	Antonio Sano	11
17.	Moonlite Strike	Saffie Joseph	11
18.	Hot Rod Charlie	Doug O'Neill	10
19.	Get Her Number	Peter Miller	10
20.	Sittin On Go	Dale Romans	10
21.	Risk Taking	Chad Brown	10
22.	Candy Man Rocket	Bill Mott	10
23.	Highly Motivated	Chad Brown	10
24.	Caddo River	Brad Cox	10
25.	Brooklyn Strong	Daniel Velazquez	10

Bold: running this weekend

\$: Late Triple Crown Nominee

UPCOMING ROAD TO THE DERBY RACES

Date	Race	Track	Top 4 Points
March 13	Rebel	OP	50-20-10-5
March 20	Louisiana Derby	FG	100-40-20-10
March 27	Jeff Ruby Steaks	TP	100-40-20-10
March 27	UAE Derby	Meydan	100-40-20-10
March 27	Florida Derby	GP	100-40-20-10
March 27	Fukuryu#	Nakayama	40-16-8-4
April 1	Cardinal Condition*	Chelmsford	30-12-6-3
April 3	Wood Memorial	Aqu	100-40-20-10
April 3	Blue Grass	Kee	100-40-20-10
April 3	Santa Anita Derby	SA	100-40-20-10
April 10	Arkansas Derby	OP	100-40-20-10
April 10	Lexington	Kee	20-8-4-2

Japan Road to the Kentucky Derby

* European Road to the Kentucky Derby

NEXT STOP

After this weekend's action, the Road to the Kentucky Derby Championship Series will continue March 20 with the \$1 million TwinSpires.com Louisiana Derby (GII) at Fair Grounds.

The 1 3/16-mile race is expected to be headlined by **Juddmonte Farm's** \$400,000 Risen Star (GII) winner **Mandaloun**. Trained by **Brad Cox**, the three-time winner suffered his only defeat in the \$200,000 Lecomte (GIII) on Jan. 16. Following that race, Cox added blinkers to the Into Mischief colt and it proved successful with his 1 1/4-length score in the Risen Star.

The Louisiana Derby is also expected to include the second and third place finishers of the Risen Star: **Godolphin's Proxy** and **Winchell Thoroughbreds' Midnight Bourbon**.

Entries for the Louisiana Derby will take place on Saturday.

QUOTABLE

Rebel Stakes:

#1 Caddo River: "In the Smarty Jones he was very nice and relaxed. It was good seeing him win that race in that type of way. He was doing it the right way." – jockey **Florent Geroux**

#3 Hozier: "I would've preferred an allowance race for him, but we just couldn't get them to fill out here (in California). It's tough. So, I thought, 'Well, he's doing good and maybe like Spielberg he'll get a little piece of it or something.' If things go crazy on the front end, you never know." – trainer **Bob Baffert**

#7 Concert Tour: "The timing is right with this horse. He's sort of on the same path as Nadal. It's all about timing. The race happened to come up perfect timing for him. So, we'll stretch him out. We're getting close now. I just want to see a good effort out of him, see how he's going to ship, how he's going to handle the ship, then shipping to run against some really nice horses. This is where they start to see if you're fit or not on the Road to the Derby." – trainer **Bob Baffert**

PAST PERFORMANCES

Brinset.com Kentucky Derby Contenders Past Performances
<https://bit.ly/3p728Wp>

Rebel Past Performances
<https://bit.ly/2PPyMjb>

DERBY DETAIL

DEBUT WINNER PREVALENCE TESTS ALLOWANCE COMPANY THURSDAY AT GULFSTREAM – **Godolphin's** 8 1/2-length debut winner **Prevalence** is the 4-5 morning line favorite in a compact field of six 3-year-olds in a one-turn allowance event Thursday at Gulfstream Park.

Trained by **Brendan Walsh**, Prevalence was targeting the Feb. 27 Fountain of Youth (GII) but was forced to reroute his plans after a minor fever caused him to miss a workout. Walsh

stated several Road to the Kentucky Derby Championship Series races could be on the table should Prevalence win Thursday's race.

The first-level allowance is carded as Race 8 with a scheduled post time of 4:44 p.m.

CHURCHILL DOWNS STABLE AREA OPENS TUESDAY – In an annual sign that spring is just around the corner, the Churchill Downs barn area will reopen Tuesday following its annual winter closure for renovations.

One of the first scheduled arrivals is a load of horses from trainer **Greg Foley's** stable in New Orleans.

The first day of training is scheduled for Friday, March 19.

DOWN THE STRETCH – Tampa Bay Derby (GII) winner **Helium** and Gotham (GIII) winner **Weyburn** were both made late Triple Crown nominees with a \$6,000 payment. Both colts were not nominated during the early phase, which cost \$600 and closed on Jan. 23. The late nomination period for the Triple Crown will close on Monday, March 29. Nominations can be made online at www.thetriplecrown.com. ... Nominations for the March 27, \$250,000 Jeff Ruby Steaks (GIII) close Saturday. To nominate, contact **Randy Wehrman** at (859) 647-4778 or randy.wehrman@turfwaypark.com. The Jeff Ruby Steaks is expected to include the top three finishers of last month's Battaglia Memorial: **Hush of a Storm**, **Like the Tiger** and **Gretzky the Great**.

SCULLY'S DERBY REPORT

LIFE IS GOOD MAKES SHORT WORK OF SAN FELIPE FIELD – With a front-running romp in Saturday's San Felipe Stakes (GII) at Santa Anita, **Life Is Good** strengthened his hold upon Kentucky Derby favoritism. The **Bob Baffert**-trained colt will make his final prep race in the \$750,000 Santa Anita Derby (GI) on April 3.

The San Felipe was one of three qualifiers over the weekend, each offering 85 points toward a Kentucky Derby berth (50-20-10-5 scale).

Helium and **Weyburn** opened their 3-year-old seasons with respective upsets in the Tampa Bay Derby (GII) and Gotham Stakes (GIII). Neither was nominated to the Triple Crown by the Jan. 23 deadline, but connections paid a \$6,000 late nominee fee.

San Felipe

After blitzing foes in his career debut sprinting last November, Life Is Good won the Sham (GIII) in early January by less than a length. The unbeaten sophomore cranked it up a notch in the 1 1/16-mile San Felipe.

Breaking from post 1, **Mike Smith** wasn't taking any chances as Life Is Good showed good speed from the break, sprinting clear by a couple of lengths on the first turn. The Into Mischief colt settled into a nice rhythm while cruising along down the backstretch.

Entering the stretch, Life Is Good drew off to win by eight lengths. He didn't appear tired afterward, and registered a career-best 103 Brisnet Speed rating.

It was disconcerting to see his antics coming home, drifting out while widening his advantage in the stretch run. Smith said his mount was looking at the big TV screen in the infield, and

Baffert wasn't concerned, noting that his runner is still learning.

"He's still green," Baffert told the Santa Anita Press Office on Sunday. "Remember **Authentic** did all that weaving one race...they're still babies. They're still immature. The main thing is he came out of it really well. We saw a lot of raw talent yesterday."

Before delivering Baffert a record-tying sixth Kentucky Derby win in early September, Authentic drifted in and out repeatedly when opening his 3-year-old season with a convincing tally in the Sham.

Life Is Good is quite the formidable presence in his division – bettors hammered him down to 2-1 favoritism in Pool 4 of the Kentucky Derby Future Wager last weekend – but he hasn't faced pressure yet.

Granted, he's a threat to keep trouncing the competition on the front end with his speed. But there's no guarantee Life Is Good will be able to dictate terms at Churchill Downs, especially if **Caddo River** and **Drain the Clock** perform well in upcoming preps.

Baffert will keep teaching his star pupil to relax in the mornings, and I wouldn't put anything past Life Is Good at this stage of the game.

Triple Crown winners **American Pharoah** and **Justify** proved tractable for Baffert. Last year, **Nadal** appeared to be all speed early in the season, but he tracked the pacesetter before rolling to an outstanding Arkansas Derby (GI) win in his career finale a few months later.

I thought Authentic was more one-dimensional, leading wire-to-wire in all five stakes wins, including the Breeders' Cup Classic (GI). His only losses came when he didn't make the early lead in the Preakness and Santa Anita Derby.

Stablemate **Medina Spirit**, a rallying second in the Sham and wire-to-wire winner of the Jan. 30 Robert B. Lewis Stakes (GIII), lost ground on Life Is Good through the final furlongs, but he easily outfinished **Dream Shake** for second. Baffert said the Santa Anita Derby and Arkansas Derby would be options for the Florida-bred Protonico colt.

Dream Shake came up empty in the final sixteenth of a mile, but held to be a clear third in his second career start. He remains eligible to improve upon the initial stakes experience.

Tampa Bay Derby

Helium had never raced on dirt or at two turns. Last seen winning a seven-furlong stakes at Woodbine in mid-October, the **Mark Casse**-trained colt deserves credit for overcoming a ridiculously wide trip in the 1 1/16-mile Tampa Bay Derby.

When 3-1 second choice **Hidden Stash** drew alongside in midstretch, Helium kept finding more to win going away by nearly a length. He was overlooked at 15-1 odds.

The Kentucky-bred is from the first crop of turf star Iconic. And turf always will be an option given his breeding. Casse noted Helium's stamina, and the bay is out of a mare by 1995 Kentucky Derby winner **Thunder Gulch**.

Considering how well he ran off the lengthy layoff, Helium appears likely to bypass another prep race. Training up to the Kentucky Derby off an eight-week layoff is an unconventional strategy, though.

And Helium must get significantly faster to challenge after netting only a 93 Speed rating.

Runner-up **Hidden Stash** will point to the Blue Grass Stakes (GII) at Keeneland on April 3.

Gotham

Weyburn showed resolve winning the Gotham by a nose over a one-turn mile at Aqueduct. After chasing pacesetter **Freedom Fighter**, the Ontario-bred fought back to edge **Crowded Trade**, who appeared headed to victory after surging to the front in midstretch.

Bettors gave Weyburn little chance following a slow maiden special weight victory over a sloppy Aqueduct track in early December, dismissing him at 46-1. The Pioneer of the Nile colt looked much improved off the three-month layoff for **Jimmy Jerkens**, with his Speed ratings jumping 19 points to a 104.

I loved the grit he displayed along the inside in deep stretch, and Weyburn is bred to thrive over longer distances. But he hasn't been two turns yet, and Jerkens didn't sound keen on bringing him back four weeks later in the Wood Memorial (GII) four weeks later following such a taxing performance.

Weyburn may wind up targeting the 1 1/2-mile Belmont Stakes on June 5 for his first Triple Crown appearance.

After winning his career debut on Jan. 28, Crowded Trade gave a fine account of himself in his first attempt against winners. He will head to the April 3 Wood Memorial for **Chad Brown**. Stablemate **Highly Motivated** didn't enjoy a clean trip, bobbling at the break and being forced to check early along the backstretch, and closed ground belatedly for third as the odds-on favorite.

A convincing winner of the Nyquist Stakes at Keeneland last fall, Highly Motivated will look to improve upon his seasonal opener when trying two turns in the Blue Grass.

Up Next

Saturday's \$1 million Rebel (GII) at Oaklawn Park is the lone qualifier this weekend, and top draws for the 1 1/16-mile race include Caddo River and **Concert Tour**. Baffert will try to win an eighth Rebel with the latter.

American Pharoah (GI) winner **Get Her Number** and Kentucky Jockey Club (GII) victor **Keepmeinmind** add depth to the eight-horse field.

I don't know whether longer distances will be ideal for Caddo River, but he exits a sharp wire-to-wire score in the one-mile Smarty Jones over the track and looks like the controlling speed Saturday. – **James Scully/Brisnet.com**

LONGINES KENTUCKY OAKS UPDATE

ROAD TO KENTUCKY OAKS CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES CONTINUES MARCH 20 WITH \$400,000 FAIR GROUNDS OAKS (GII) – The Road to the Kentucky Oaks Championship Series continues Saturday, March 20 with the \$400,000 TwinSpires.com Fair Grounds Oaks (GII) featuring \$300,000 Rachel Alexandra (GII) winner **Clairiere**.

Entries will be taken on Saturday.

ROAD TO THE LONGINES KENTUCKY OAKS TOP 20

#	Horse	Trainer	Points
1.	Will's Secret	Dallas Stewart	60
2.	Clairiere	Steve Asmussen	54
3.	Wholebodemester	Juan Carlos Avila	52
4.	Search Results	Chad Brown	50
5.	Beautiful Gift	Bob Baffert	50
6.	Travel Column	Brad Cox	32
7.	Kalypso	Bob Baffert	28
8.	Crazy Beautiful	Kenny McPeck	28
9.	Vequist	Butch Reid Jr.	24
10.	Moraz	Michael McCarthy	22
11.	Miss Brazil	Tony Dutrow	20
12.	The Grass Is Blue	Chad Brown	20
13.	Pauline's Pearl	Steve Asmussen	20
14.	Dayoutoftheoffice	Tim Hamm	18
15.	Girl Daddy	Dale Romans	14
16.	Simply Ravishing	Kenny McPeck	13
17.	Moon Swag	Brendan Walsh	12
18.	Sun Path	Brad Cox	11
19.	Malathaat	Todd Pletcher	10
20.	Curlin's Catch	Mark Casse	10

Bold: running this weekend

TAKING SHAPE

The possible fields for Kentucky Derby Championship Series races are fluid as owners and trainers vie for points on the "Road to the Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve." Below are known horses mentioned to be under consideration for each race based on published news reports and other sources.

TWINSPIRES.COM LOUISIANA DERBY (GII)

Saturday, March 20, \$1 million, 3yo, 1 3/16 M, Fair Grounds, New Orleans, La., Top 4 Points: 100-40-20-10.

Horse (Points)	Trainer	Brisnet.com Prime Power	Run Style
Known Likely Starters:			
Mandaloun (52)	Brad Cox	143.1	P 1
Midnight Bourbon (26)	Steve Asmussen	137.6	E 1
Hot Rod Charlie (10)	Doug O'Neill	136.6	P 1
Proxy (24)	Mike Stidham	136.5	E/P 6
Rightandjust (0)	Shane Wilson	130.5	E 8
Nova Rags (4)	Bill Mott	130.3	P 1
Starrinmydreams (0)	Dallas Stewart	126.9	E 5
Run Classic (0)	Bret Calhoun	126.5	E/P 6
Known Possible Starters:			
Rombauer (14)	Michael McCarthy	136.6	S 0
O Besos (5)	Greg Foley	129.7	P 3

UAE DERBY (GII)

Saturday, March 27, \$2.5 million, 3yo, 1 3/16 M, Meydan Racecourse, Dubai, Top 4 Points: 100-40-20-10.

Horse (Points)	Trainer
Known Likely Starters:	
Cowan	Steve Asmussen
+Highland Avenue	Charlie Appleby
+Mouheeb	Nicolas Bachalard
+Pink Kamehameha	Hideyuki Mori

FLORIDA DERBY (GI)

Saturday, March 27, \$1 million, 3yo, 1 1/8 M, Gulfstream Park, Hallandale Beach, Fla., Top 4 Points: 100-40-20-10.

Horse (Points)	Trainer	Brisnet.com Prime Power	Run Style
Known Likely Starters:			
Greatest Honour (60)	Shug McGaughey III	144.5	S 0
Known Agenda (2)	Todd Pletcher	134.7	P 1
Collaborate (0)	Saffie Joseph Jr.	131.5	E/P 4
Soup and Sandwich (0)	Mark Casse	126.4	E/P 6

JEFF RUBY STEAKS (GIII)

Saturday, March 27, \$200,000, 3yo, 1 1/8 M (Tapeta), Turfway Park, Florence, Ky., Top 4 Points: 20-8-4-2.

Horse (Points)	Trainer	Brisnet.com Prime Power	Run Style
Known Likely Starters:			
Gretzky the Great (2)	Mark Casse	139.1	E/P 7
Tarantino (9)	Rodolphe Brisset	135.2	E/P 6
Like the King (4)	Wesley Ward	130.7	E/P 1
Hush of a Storm (10)	Bill Morey	130.6	P 1
+Hard Rye Guy (1)	Ian Wilkes	122.4	S 2

WOOD MEMORIAL (GII)

Saturday, April 3, \$750,000, 3yo, 1 1/8 M, Aqueduct, Ozone, N.Y., Top 4 Points: 100-40-20-10.

Horse (Points)	Trainer	Brisnet.com Prime Power	Run Style
Known Likely Starters:			
Crowded Trade (20)	Chad Brown	139.1	P 4
Weyburn (50)	Jimmy Jerkens	136.8	E 8
Risk Taking (10)	Chad Brown	133.6	P 3
Known Possible Starters:			
Medina Spirit (34)	Bob Baffert	139.0	E 1
Rombauer (14)	Michael McCarthy	136.6	S 0
Brooklyn Strong (10)	Daniel Velazquez	136.2	E/P 5
Spielberg (17)	Bob Baffert	134.7	P 2
Roman Centurian (9)	Simon Callaghan	132.1	S 0
Prevalence (0)	Brendan Walsh	127.9	E 6

BLUE GRASS (GI)

Saturday, April 3, \$1 million, 3yo, 1 1/8 M, Keeneland, Lexington, Ky., Top 4 Points: 100-40-20-10.

Horse (Points)	Trainer	Brisnet.com Prime Power	Run Style
Known Likely Starters:			
Essential Quality (40)	Brad Cox	146.3	E/P 4
Hidden Stash (22)	Vicki Oliver	135.5	P 2
Known Possible Starters:			
Highly Motivated (10)	Chad Brown	143.0	P 1
Dream Shake (10)	Peter Eurton	132.8	S 2
O Besos (5)	Greg Foley	129.7	P 3

SANTA ANITA DERBY (GI)

Saturday, April 3, \$1 million, 3yo, 1 1/8 M, Santa Anita, Arcadia, Calif., Top 4 Points: 100-40-20-10.

Horse (Points)	Trainer	Brisnet.com Prime Power	Run Style
Known Likely Starters:			
Life Is Good (60)	Bob Baffert	148.1	E 1
Known Possible Starters:			
Rombauer (14)	Michael McCarthy	136.6	S 0
Spielberg (17)	Bob Baffert	134.7	P 2
Rock Your World (0)	John Sadler	134.0	E/P 6
Dream Shake (10)	Peter Eurton	132.8	S 2
Prevalence (0)	Brendan Walsh	127.9	E 6

ARKANSAS DERBY (GI)

Saturday, April 10, \$1 million, 3yo, 1 1/8 M, Oaklawn Park, Hot Springs, Ark., Top 4 Points: 100-40-20-10.

Horse (Points)	Trainer	Brisnet.com Prime Power	Run Style
Known Possible Starters:			
Medina Spirit (34)	Bob Baffert	139.0	E 1
Brooklyn Strong (10)	Daniel Velazquez	136.2	E/P 5
Prevalence (0)	Brendan Walsh	127.9	E 6

LEXINGTON (GIII)

Saturday, April 10, \$200,000, 3yo, 1 1/16 M, Keeneland, Lexington, Ky., Top 4 Points: 20-8-4-2.

-END-